ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In packet communications that utilize header compression/decompression, relatively fast and reliable header compression context updates can be accomplished with relatively low overhead by: sending anticipatory context update requests before decompressor context invalidation is detected; sending redundant context update requests; and sending redundant context updates. Transmission parameters associated with both context update requests and context updates can be controlled appropriately to improve their chances for delivery, and needless context update requests can be identified and ignored at the header compression side.